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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 26 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 September 1996 from His Majesty King Hassan II, in his capacity as President of the Seventh Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and President of the Al-Quds Committee, concerning the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI

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ANNEX

Letter dated 26 September 1996 from the President of the Seventh Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, President of the Al-Quds Committee, addressed to the Secretary-General

Following the opening by the Israeli Government of a tunnel under the Al-Aqsa Mosque to Al-Quds al-Sharif, resulting in bloody and distressing incidents that spread throughout the Palestinian territory causing casualties among innocent, unarmed martyrs, we are writing to you in our capacity as President of the Seventh Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and of the Al-Quds Committee in order to denounce this act of provocation which has aroused the emotions of Arabs and Muslims and is in flagrant violation of all the international resolutions recommending the preservation of the historic sites in the holy city.

This act illustrates the policy that has been systematically adopted by, and confirms the three "no's" of, the present Israeli Government.

We are now facing a new reality which categorically repudiates all that was agreed at the Madrid Conference, as well as the Accords signed between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, particularly the section relating to the final status of Al-Quds al-Sharif.

Israel has violated the terms of these Accords by taking measures designed to isolate the town of Al-Quds, extend the settlements and restrict building activities in the Arab quarters, not to mention the archaeological digs which may undermine the foundations of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Our faith in peace was absolute. We had defended it in the hope that it would be just, comprehensive and lasting, and would therefore meet the aspirations of the region, and because we were convinced that the era of coexistence in this land - cradle of religions - had become an incontestable reality. Now, however, we find, to our bitter disappointment, that our conviction was not shared by the other party.

Just as we unanimously pay tribute to the efforts made by the Palestinian National Authority to honour its international commitments, despite the measures taken to seal it off and the suffering endured by the Palestinian people in its occupied territories, so we find that Israel is persisting in its arrogance and in its violation of the principles and obligations to which it had subscribed. It is pursuing, by force, a policy of fait accompli which will merely result in deadlock and a return to the cycle of violence and instability in the region.

While affirming that we reject this Israeli option, which seeks to impose a fait accompli on us, we reiterate, on behalf of the entire Islamic Ummah, our condemnation of the Israeli actions, which are contrary to the spirit of the heavenly religions, to international legality and to the accords concluded - with the unanimous blessing of the international community - between the parties to the conflict.

In this regard, we ask you to see to it that this message is issued as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, so that the international community may assume its responsibility by imposing what is right and opposing any measure that might undermine the legitimate rights of Arabs and Muslims.

Hassan II
King of Morocco